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NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK . . .

JULY 23-29.

National Farm Safety Week which is sponsored by the National Safety Council has been endorsed by Secretary Wickard and War Food Administrator Marvin Jones....

Farm accidents which annually rob the nation of millions of hours of productive labor are regrettable at any time, but they are intolerable in wartime, when every ounce of food is needed to win victory and the peace.

The Department of Agriculture, therefore, heartily approves observance of National Farm Safety Week, as planned by the National Safety Council and various farm organizations for July 23-29, 1944.

Farm groups everywhere should be urged to join wholeheartedly in supporting this National Farm Safety Week as a means of acquainting all farm people with the absolute necessity for preventing farm accidents and thus conserving farm manpower for warpower.

Every farm accident prevented means more food for freedom. And more food is all important right now because, as we know, food is playing a leading role in our struggle against the forces of oppression throughout the world.

Sincerely yours,

Claude R. Wickard

Secretary

No other industry in our nation has been called on to perform more miracles of production than Agriculture. The farmer, the dairyman, the rancher, and all allied branches have, in the face of many handicaps, increased production to meet our tremendous wartime food and fiber needs.

It is of the utmost importance to prevent losses of farm manpower and production due to accidents. For that reason the War Food Administration heartily approves the observance of National Farm Safety Week, as planned by the National Safety Council and various farm organizations, from July 23rd to 29th, 1944, and urges all Farm Groups interested in the prevention of farm accidents to cooperate wholeheartedly.

As in any industry, most farm accidents are preventable. One way to increase farm manpower and production is to prevent the loss of time through accidents. Not the least by-product of this program will be the prevention of inestimable human suffering and loss of morale.

Sincerely yours,

Marvin Jones

Administrator

This is the time to launch your safety programs in every farm community. Remember that this program is a continuous one and that the week provides an excellent opportunity for the kick-off because of the support that has been developed through press, radio and other media.

FOOD INFORMATION

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USE FOOD INFORMATION SERIES LETTERHEAD STENCIL

June 1, 1944

No. 89

Subject: Farm Safety

Field Distribution: Extension Directors and Editors, AAA Committeemen, BAE Analysts and Statisticians, OD Marketing Reports Chiefs, FCA, FSA, SCS Regional Information Chiefs, SCS State Conservationists.

Suggested Use: Background information.

FARM ACCIDENT TOLL IN '43

DEAD	--- 20,000 farm people.
INJURED	--- 2,000,000 farmers, members of their families and hired help
MONEY LOSS	--- is estimated at \$1,000,000,000

FARM ACCIDENT FACTS

--- Agriculture employed 16 percent of the nation's workers in 1943, but had 24 percent of all fatal accidents, the largest number of six major industries.

--- The loss of time from farm accidents has been estimated by the National Safety Council to be equivalent to double the amount of labor necessary to produce the annual wheat crop of the United States.

--- To each person in the United States the loss means the equivalent manpower to produce for them:

15 bushels of wheat or -
16 bushels of corn or -
313 pounds of pork or -
202 pounds of beef.

--- A loss of 4-1/2 days' food supply for every person in this country!

--- Two fifths of the total accidents to farm residents occurred in the home.

--- Fatal farm home accidents were: falls - 39 percent; burns - 25 percent; firearms - seven percent; poisons - six percent; mechanical suffocation - four percent; and all others - 19 percent.

--- Approximately 28 percent of all farm work accidents involved machinery, 26 percent livestock, 10 percent falls, nine percent excessive heat, six percent lightning, and all others 20 percent.

AN OLD STORY

For the past thirty years industry has demonstrated that most accidents are preventable. In the past sixteen years the accident trend in industrial injury frequency rate has decreased 67 percent and the severity rate 50 percent.

A study of case records of farm accidents indicates that most farm accidents are also preventable.

A NEW STORY

Since the war has absorbed all surplus farm labor, even a minor accident is a serious threat to any farm. Most farmers have adopted special precautions to keep their machinery from breaking down. They must be urged to take the same extra care to keep themselves and other farm workers from getting knocked out of the production battle by accidents. This extra care will not only safeguard the operation of each farm, it will result in a larger supply of food and fiber for the nation.

There is a special problem for all concerned in farm safety education at this time. Thousands of people who have had little or no safety instruction are helping out on the farm front. Unless skillful and careful help is given these people by all concerned in accident prevention, their accident rate will be much higher than that of experienced farm workers.

WHAT TO DO

--- The prevention of accidents has a specific....EDUCATION. This program of farm safety is timely the year around. There is never a season that does not present new hazards...new angles. Here's a way to assist in producing food that's fighting for freedom by keeping up to full strength farm manpower. Farm safety should be stressed at every opportunity...over the air...in the press...through the mails and in face to face contacts. Help make each day a safe day!

REFERENCE SOURCES

- AWI 31 "Safety Check List for Women and Girls Doing Farm Work for the First Time." A score sheet of six simple rules of safety and health.
- AWI 42 "Safety for the U. S. Farm Corps." A booklet prepared as a guide for the instruction of Crop Corps workers to acquaint these folks with some of the hazards of farm work.
- AWI 44 "Going to the Farm Front?" A healthful place to work if you use common sense and remember a few "don'ts". A safety tips flyer of value to U. S. Crop Corps.
- AWI 45 "Start Them Right." Gives valuable suggestions to the farmer using new members of the U. S. Crop Corps.
- FB 1512 "Protection of Buildings and Farm Property from Lightning." This bulletin gives concise, practical, and up-to-date information on the selection and installation of protective equipment of value to all property owners; 32 pages, fully illustrated.

FB 1590 "Fire-protective Construction on the Farm" is a bulletin embodying the results of studies of the causes of farm fires and ways and means of control and prevention. Of general interest. Twenty two pages, illustrated.

FB 1643 "Fire Safeguards for the Farm" tells how to lessen or avoid fire hazards on the farm which cause one hundred million dollars loss a year. Twenty nine pages, illustrated.

FB 1678 "Safe Use and Storage of Gasoline and Kerosene on the Farm" points out the most common hazards, and the precautions that should be used. Of general interest. Fourteen pages, illustrated.

FB 1786 "Fireproofing Fabrics." A brief explanation of the action of various fireproofing agents. Points out the good and bad qualities of those more commonly used. Of general interest. Nine pages, illustrated.

FB 1926 "Preventing Destructive Fires in Southern Woodlands" emphasizes need for woodland protection and points out why some people think they should burn the woods with the resultant losses caused by such practices. Of particular interest in pine producing areas. Fifteen pages, fully illustrated.

L 44 "Fires on the Farm" discusses some of the principal fire hazards and how to avoid them. Seven pages, illustrated.

L 193 "Fireproofing Christmas Trees" tells how to reduce the holiday fire hazard by the use of cheap and easily obtained chemicals. Five pages, illustrated.

MP 481 "Watch Your Step." A little book of suggestions: how to eliminate farm hazards, and how to anticipate and remove the cause of accidents. Of general interest. Thirty two pages, illustrated.

These publications may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Other materials on farm safety may be obtained from your State Agricultural Colleges.

